

REMARKS

The Applicants hereby submit this Amendment and Request for Reconsideration in response to the Office Action mailed on 24 August 2006 for the subject application. In the present amendment, the Applicants amend claims 1, 7, 14, 24-27, and 31-34; claims 28-30 and 35-37 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-27 and 31-34 as amended are pending in the patent application after entry of the amendment. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been entered based on the amendment. The claim amendments are based on explicit support in the application as originally filed.

In the Office Action mailed on 24 August 2006, the Examiner objected to the declaration as being defective for lacking the details required by the CFR and MPEP. It appears that the Examiner may not have received a full copy of the signed declaration as originally filed. Thus, in response, the Applicants hereby submit a true copy of the 3-page signed declaration which includes the specified requirements.

In the same Office Action, the Examiner rejected some claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Freitag et al. but allowed dependent claims 7, 11-13, and 21-23. In response, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the following reasons.

The Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 14, 24-27, and 31-34. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to include limitations which are the same or similar to limitations of allowable original dependent claim 7. Therefore, amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-13, as well as amended claim 14 and its dependent claims 15-23, should now be allowable over the prior art of record. In addition, claims 24 and 31 have been amended to include limitations which are the same or similar to limitations of allowable original dependent claim 7 as well as original dependent claim 8. Therefore, amended claim 24 and its dependent claims 25-27, as well as amended claim 31 and its dependent claims 32-34, should now be allowable over the prior art of record.

Finally, the Applicants respectfully submit that one ordinarily skilled in the art may appreciate the further limitations of dependent claims for novelty and non-obviousness, but need not elaborate on such at the present time.

Based on the above, the Applicants submit that all pending claims as amended are allowable over the prior art of record and that the present application is in a condition suitable for allowance.

Thank you. Please feel free to contact the undersigned if there are any questions or concerns regarding this submission.

Respectfully submitted,



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